

which possesses a considerable degree of stringency, is besides used by tanners and leather-dressers; charcoal made from it is considered excellent in the manufacture of gun-powder. Vitruvius says that the piles whereon the whole of the buildings of Ravenna, in Italy, stand, consist of it; Virgil mentions it in the "Georgics" as furnishing the material for boats or canoes, which were formed out of its hollowed trunk; Evelyn says the oldest boats we read of, Noah's ark excepted, were made of it; also that it was used for the piles upon which the Bridge of the Rialto, at Venice, was founded in 1591. The colour of the wood is rich, a red yellow, somewhat like that of Scotch fir, but a little variable in shade; when found in bogs it is generally perfectly black; neither the annual rings nor the larger transverse septæ are very distinct. It is most durable when felled a little after Midsummer; and is rendered less subject to worms by being water-seasoned.

(To be continued.)

LONDON AS IT WAS, AND AS IT IS IN 1844.

(Continued from p. 410.)

THE royal palace of Westminster, the great hall of which was re-built prior to 1399, by Richard II., occupied the two large areas or courts still distinguished by the names of Old and New Palace-yard. These courts being bounded by the river Thames, and on the west by the Abbey of St. Peter, St. Margaret's parish church, the little and great sanctuaries, &c., were entered on the west and south by gates. Most of this extensive pile of building was destroyed by fire in 1512, and latterly St. Stephens met the same fate.

Opposite to the principal entrance to the hall in New Palace-yard, was, in olden-times, a handsome conduit or fountain, from which at coronations and other great rejoicings, wine was made to run at divers spouts. Henry the III. entertained in this hall and other rooms on New Year's Day, 1236, for the honour of the king and queen, 6,000 poor men women and children. In 1399, on the building being finished, Richard kept his royal Christmas in it, with his accustomed prodigality, "with daily jousting and runnings at tilt, whereunto resorted such a number of people, that there was every day spent 26 or 28 oxen and 300 sheep, besides fowls out of number. The quantity of guests daily who sat down to meat, was 10,000 people, whose messes were told out from the kitchen by 300 servants; and not less than 2,000 cooks, well skilled in their profession, were employed to furnish the requisite number of dishes. Henry III., kept several great Christmases in this hall, as did likewise his grandson, Edward II."

In this hall parliaments were frequently held, and during its re-building in 1397, Richard II. erected a temporary shed for the purpose, adjoining it, open on all sides and at both ends, that all men might hear what passed, "and to secure freedom of debate, he surrounded the house with 4,000 Cheshire archers with bows bent and arrows nocked ready to shoot, which fully answered the intent, for every sacrifice was made to the royal pleasure." The day of retaliation was, however, close at hand; and a second parliament held in the new hall, a short time afterwards, wrested the crown from this weak and misguided prince.

The trial of Charles I., was held in Westminster Hall, and Pennant, noticing the primitive manners of that period, observes "the commons who had an inclosed place for themselves, at a certain hour pulled out of their pockets bread, cheese, and bottles of ale."

The ancient palace of Westminster, now, having been used as a royal residence since 1632, the several apartments were appropriated for divers uses; two of which for the re-

ception of the lords and commons, and others occupied by the courts of star chamber, requests, and wards, and liveries, the hall, which at first was only used for royal banquets, and feasts for refreshing the poor, is now variously appropriated.

Adjoining to the south angle of the hall and north end of the old palace, King Stephen founded a chapel, and dedicated it to St. Stephen, the Protomartyr. Edward III. rebuilt it in a very magnificent manner in 1347, and converted it into a collegiate church, and afterwards endowed it with his *hospitium*, or great house in Lombard-street, lands in Yorkshire, and an annuity out of his treasury, to make up 500*l.* per annum. John Chamber, M.D., physician to Henry VIII., and the late dean of the same, caused to be erected on the north side, a magnificent cloister at the expense of eleven thousand marks.

The revenues of this collegiate chapel at its suppression, amounted to 1,085*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* per annum, and the same being surrendered to Edward VI., was appropriated for the reception of the representatives of the commons of England, who have ever since continued to meet therein. Contiguous to this chapel on the south was that of our lady of the Pen, in whose image many rich offerings were made. This wooden deity, together with the chapel, was consumed by fire in 1452.

Whitehall palace was erected by Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, and Chief Justice of England, who, in 1243, bequeathed it to the preaching or Black-friars, in Chancery-lane. They disposed of it to the Archbishop of York, and he devising it to his successors for their city Mansion; hence it received the appellation of York-place. In the reign of Henry VIII. the royal palace of Westminster being almost destroyed by fire, the king purchased York-house of Cardinal Wolsey. In 1597 it was wholly consumed by fire. Henry no sooner became possessed of this palace than he built St. James's; and for the use and service of it, as well as that of Whitehall, enclosed a beautiful spot of ground and converted it into a park, for the accommodation of both palaces; erecting a magnificent gate opposite the Mansion-house, opposite the Banqueting-house, to which he added a fine gallery for the accommodation of the royal family, nobility, and gentry to sit in, to behold the several justings and other military exercises in the tilt-yard. He also erected contiguous to this gate, a tennis-court, cock-pit, and places to bowl in. The present magnificent fabric denominated the Banqueting-house, and Whitehall Chapel, was erected by King James I.; being the only and meanest part of his intended spacious palace that was built, and which it is thought, if finished according to the plan, would have been the finest in existence. The civil war put a stop to the work.

The Horse-guards originally had their stables in the place they now occupy; the present building was erected in the reign of George II., at a cost of 30,000*l.*

The Admiralty was removed to the spot it now occupies in the reign of George II. The former Office stood in Duke-street, the present one on the site of Wallingford-house. The equestrian statue of Charles I., by Le Sueur, stands on the same spot where formerly stood a beautiful cross, one of the celebrated memorials of the affection of Edward I. for his beloved Eleanor. It was cast for the Earl of Arundel, and was not erected till the year 1678, when it was placed on the present pedestal, the work of the admired Grinlin Gibbons. The feet has been declared faulty for want of expression, but there is a certain simplicity in the whole, hardly to be met with in the equestrian statues of the present day. It is with regret we observe the corroding hand of Time marking the pedestal.

What a change has come o'er the spirit of our dream. Within thirty years, immense piles of buildings have disappeared from this neighbourhood, and piles of stately buildings have risen in their stead; aristocratic silence has succeeded the bustle of former times; and with the last remnants of old Charing-cross, the old appliances of country-waggons and stage-coaches, disappeared before the revolutionary power of steam. From hence to the Haymarket all is new, or assumes a new aspect.

The Haymarket and Hedge-lane, as late as the reign of Charles II., were literally lanes bounded by hedges; and all beyond, north, east, and west, was entirely country. In 1600, it presented a very countifried appearance, most of the houses exhibiting a mean and dilapidated appearance, widely different from the present. Thus it continued until about 1822, when the market was removed to the neighbourhood of Regent's Park. Suffolk-street and its neighbourhood was then rebuilt, the opera-house was outwardly embellished, the low pot-houses gave way to handsome wine and spirit stores or taverns, and Regent-street swept away much of the low neighbourhood in its rear.

In former times Coventry-house stood near the Haymarket, and gave name to Coventry-street. It was the residence of Lord Keeper Coventry; and Henry Coventry, Secretary of State, died here in 1686. His house occupied the site of the house formerly known as the gaming-house. A great part of the Haymarket and Piccadilly was built by Mr. Elwes, the celebrated miser; who also built several of the splendid mansions in Portland-place.

Pall Mall was formerly laid out as a walk, or place for the exercise of the mall, its northern side being bounded by a row of trees, and that to the south by the old wall of St. James's Park. The principal edifice in 1800 was Carlton-house, originally the property of the Earl of Burlington, and purchased from the family by Frederick, Prince of Wales, father to George III.; it was then far from being a commodious residence, and coming into the possession of the Prince Regent (afterwards George IV.), it was almost entirely rebuilt at a vast expense, from the designs of Mr. Holland.

Marlborough-house, now occupied by the Queen Dowager, was first tenanted by the great Duke of Marlborough; his Duchess, when the building was finished, determined to open a way from it to Pall Mall, and *vice versa* directly in front. But in order to thwart her design, on account of her altercations with the court, and declared animosity against the newly-ascended royal family, Sir Robert Walpole purchased the house before it, on purpose to block her up. This building exhibits outwardly a singular taste; it has, nevertheless, many beautiful and commodious apartments.

In 1800, where now stands Trafalgar-square was the King's Mews, a place of considerable antiquity; and so called from the word *Mews*, a term employed by falconers, implying to moult or cast feathers, because, in former times, and so far back as 1377, this place was appointed for the accommodation of the king's falconers and hawks. But the royal stables at Somerset, since called Bloomsbury, being consumed by fire in 1537, Henry VIII. ordered the removal of the hawks from the Mews, that they might be enlarged, and rendered fit to receive his Majesty's horses; and to this purpose was it, up to the time of its demolition, appropriated. In 1732, it was begun to be rebuilt by George II., and improvements and repairs were carried on up to the beginning of the present century. Whatever claims it may have had to admiration in those days, they could not arrest the march of alteration.

Northumberland-house, built by Bernard Janson in the reign of James I., derives its name from the ancient and noble family, who, for many centuries, have been possessors of it. It is still one of the largest and most magnificent private residences in London, and contains many very elegant and commodious apartments. It stands upon the site of the cell and chapel St. Mary Rounceval, suppressed among the alien priories by Henry V., but rebuilt by Edward IV., who fixed a fraternity in it. The hermitage of St. Catherine stood opposite, another monastic building, belonging 1202 to the see of Landaff.

St. James's Church was built by Henry, Earl of St. Albans, in consequence of the increase of new buildings in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. On the death of this earl, Charles II., by his letters-patent in 1664, granted the church and cemetery in trust to his nephew, Lord Jermin, and his heirs for ever; who thereupon assigned it to Sir Walter Chorges, Bart., and others, to be used as a chapel-of-ease of the inhabitants of St. Martin's, and it was thereupon consecrated by the then Bishop of